would be sent to you from that you can know what is going to be done and by when.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : What are you doing about funds.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already replied to that.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, Paragraph '8' of the statement of the answer given by the hon. Minister says : "All the existing research centres should be strengthened". The Central Homoeopathy Research Centre which is situated in Kurichy-Changanassery in Kottayam District is lacking infrastructural as well as research facilities. They have sent many proposals for improving the infrastructural as well as research facilities. But so far no action has been taken. Many representations have already been made to the hon. Minister, and even my learned friend, Shri Ramesh Chennithala, representing Kottyam constituency, has submitted many proposals for improving the infrastructural as well as research facilities.

On the basis of the answer which has been given in this House, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would take appropriate steps to improve the infrastructural as well as research facilities of the Homoeopathic Research Centre which is situated in Kottayam.

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : Sir, we are reviewing the whole situation. It is because we are constrained with the Budget and we have to manage with the funds which are available to us...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Those facilities which are existing in the Centre are also abandoned. I do not know what is the reason...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please let him reply. You cannot intervene like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI : We have a plan to look into all these programmes. The CCRS Centre which you have mentioned is one of the areas that we are looking into.

We have decided that we will strengthen the existing research centres - not only strengthen them *vis-a-vis* with more Budget but also monitor the kind of research work that is going on there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The existing facilities should be strengthened...*(Interruptions)*

DR. C. SILVERA : Sir, the Indian system of medicines is a very important component of health care system of the country. The previous Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao has made this into a full-fledged Department and stress has been given that the Indian system of medicines in the country should progress further and further so that it comes within the reach of the rural population as well as the urban population. At para 12 of the answer given, mention is made of pharmacopoeial standardisation. There are a number of products in the Indian system which need standardisation. How long is it going to take to have these various types of Indian system of medicines standardised? Mention also has been made that outside agencies be involved in projects for evolving standards. Which are the outside agencies which are going to help in evolving the standardisation of these Indian system of medicine products?

The medicinal plants are available in certain parts of the country. Mostly these medicinal and herbal plants are available in the hilly areas of the country. What incentives are being given by the Ministry so that these medicinal plants are grown, preserved and protected and also helped so that the people can take the benefit?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Silvera, you have already asked three Supplementaries...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI: Sir, regarding the standardisation we have decided that the pharmacopoeial studies which are being conducted will end by the Ninth Five Year Plan and by that time we will have our total standardisation of all the medicines. This is the target that we have got and we are very hopeful that by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan we will be achieving our pharmacopoeial standards.

When we talk about the outside agencies we are also involving the C.S.I.R. and the universities where the system is being taught so that they can also help us study the matter.

Chemical Weapon Convention

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*304. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has ratified the "Chemical Weapon Convention" (CWC);

(b) if so, the details in this regard and when it will come into force;

(c) whether United States, Russia, China and Pakistan are not among the 68 nations which have so far ratified the treaty;

(d) if so, whether India's ratification of the treaty without proper deliberations could harm the interest of its armed forces when Pakistan has not ratified the treaty; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

India signed the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) on 14th January, 1993, ratified it on 18th October, 1995 and deposited the Instrument of Ratification with the UN Secretary General on 3rd September 1996, becoming the 62nd country to do so. The CWC will enter into force on 29th April 1997. 70 countries have ratified the CWC till date.

United States, Russia, China and Pakistan are among the countries which have not ratified the treaty, so far.

India considers the CWC to be a model disarmament agreement as it is a global and non-discriminatory treaty. India hopes that CWC would be subscribed to universally. However, in the event that major signatories to the Treaty do not ratify and deposit their instruments of ratification, India would reserve the right to review the situation for an appropriate response. The Government of India is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, civilised human society would always prefer a world free of wars and weaponery. As chemical warfare is the most heinous manner of waging wars, hence a convention regarding chemical weapons would always be a welcome step. But when countries like U.S.A. and Russia which have the largest stock of chemical weapons and none of our closest neighbouring countries like China, Pakistan, Banglades, Nepal have ratified the convention, I fail to comprehend as to why was Government of India in such a hurry to ratify the convention. In the reply furnished by the Government, the Government has stated that if the prominent signatories, which probably are U.S.A., Russia, Pakistan, China, do not ratify the convention, India resources the right to review the situation. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the time-frame stipulated therefor? If Pakistan, China, U.S.A. and Russia do not ratify it by signing it, how would we be able to make this effort a success. Either countries like Pakistan, China, U.S.A. and Russia should be persuaded to sign it and in case we are unable to get their signatures on it, I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister the stipulated time frame after which we will be exercising our right to review the situation.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Hon'ble Member has held the charge of Ministry of Defence. He must have reviewed such matters and I believe that he must have gone through the documents and when he would have gone through these documents ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : I am relieved that you did not say that I must have got them photocopied.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when we would have gone through these documents, he must have noticed that all the countries he has named have signed this treaty but have not ratified it. There is a stipulated time frame for ratification and we are keeping an eye as to who ratifies the treaty by then and we will always have this option that if we consider it necessary to withdraw are ratification in interest of our defence requirements, we will surely do so but uptil now, such a situation has not arisen you have specifically mentioned U.S.A. U.S.A. is going through a period of internal strife. Republican party has a separate viewpoint and Mr. Clinton has a different view point. This is their internal conflict which is going on. There is still time and we have not taken this step in haste. It is only that the action which was to be taken after two years, has been taken. We are watching the situation, thus it has not been hurried through.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is quite possible that he has been unable to follow Hindi vocabulary. I was under the impression that Shri Gujral would have no difficulty in comprehending it. I also know the difference between signatures and ratification. Hence when I was putting a across my views, I did not say that they have not signed it. I said that they have not ratified it and so lay as you do not submit the document after ratifying it, your signatures on this treaty would not be considered sufficient 70 countries have already ratified it and much time is not left. It would come into effect in April hence it is not as if much time is left. But in your reply or at least while replying to my supplementary question, you should have mentioned the position particularly with regard to Pakistan and China because the biggest problem comes to the fore when these weapons are used. You next reply could be that we have already signed a treaty with Pakistan regarding non-usage of Chemical weapons against each other. An apprehension is being expressed that such weapons have been used in Siachan. It is not confirmed whether it is true or false but such a view is being expressed. In these circumstances, even after this treaty comes into force, the countries can keep the stock of chemical weapons for another ten years. What I want to say to you is that you may not consider it a hasty step but the world see it as one. As USA is going through a period of strife, it may not ratify it and if Russia, Pakistan and China do not rafity it, when will we review the situation that is the question which you have not answered as yet.

I once again put the same question and would also like to ask another question alongside as you will not permit me to ask the second supplementary question. There is a small point towards which I would like to draw your kind attention. There is a provision for inspection of chemical industries. There would be 400 Inspectors who would carry out inspection of chemical industries. With this sort of inspection, the chemical know how of the poor third world countries and here I

am not talking about the weapon power, but about the other chemical technology. Would no longer remain secret and there is a danger of our technology being made public. The treaty does not take any responsibility regarding transfer of our technology in guise of inspection or for any sort of commercial violation. Under these circumstances how our chemical industry is being guided and safeguarded so that our technology is not stolen in name of inspection. Please resolve this apprehension also.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Regarding the reply to the earlier question, he has asked as to what are the options before us. I have already stated that in this regard, our options are very open. In case such countries which pore a threat to the security of our country do not sign it and ratify it, we can always review our position and if such a stage comes, we will review it. I can assure you of that. Right now such a stage has not came hence there is no danger as yet. As for the position in this regard, the positions is that about 70 countries have alredy ratified it. Pressure is being excited on them talks have been held in Geneva. Now let us watch their next step and we are keeping an eye on the situation. If such a stage comes, we will devote full attention to the matter.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : 70 countries have signed it. It is immaterial whether the remaining countries sign it or not.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : As for what you have said regarding Siachen, no such report has come to our notice that any chemical weapons have been used in that area or elsewhere. We have signed a bilateral agreement with Pakistan wherein it has been stated that weapons of mass destruction can not be used and they have not been used either. Hence we are keeping our views reserved. Please do not worry about it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Then why Pakistan is manufacturing such weapons if it is not against us anymore.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : We have no such information that it is making any such weapons. No other country has stated that it is making such weapons. Hence this question does not arise. As for your query regarding its effect on technology, it has been clearly stated in the treaty that we are free to use it for non-weapon's purposes. Chemicals are used in our country. There are chemicals Insecticides factories and chemical weapons industries. We are also exporting it. Recently a controversy arose in Iran. An industry is being set up there. It was a matter pertaining to export of chemicals. We had certified that it would be used for non-weapons purposes. Except for the danger posed by other side. It is not going to have much effect on technology.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Asim Bala;

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorey to interrupt. There are three categories of Chemical weapons and chemical factories wherein under one category, chemicals are used directly whereas in the other two categories, chemicals are used indirectly, what do you have to say about the provision made for carrying out inspections thereof?

SHRI I.K. GUJARAL : You speak such Hindi which I am unable to follow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should have one to one meeting in this regard.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since reports have come out in the Press that american companies produce chemical weapons and are carrying on a clandestine business of selling all types of arms, including chemical arms to other countries and terrorists are procuring such weapons I would like to know whether the Government of India has taken any steps to prevent the dumping of chemical weapons like RDX in our country by America or by any other foreign mercenary.

I would also like to know whether RDX is coming into our country secretly and whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent the infiltration of chemical weapons into our country.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, there is no question of our not importing chemicals. We are not importing any chemical weapons. If the hon. Member has any information, he may let me know and I will check up.

So far as RDX is concerned, RDX is not a chemical weapon.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It is arsenic.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the perceived danger from across the border mostly from the neighbouring countries like China and Pakistan and since India is a leading member of the Non-Aligned Movement, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, specifically, as to whether there has been due consultation among the member-countries of the Non-Aligned Movement for the security of these countries.

Sir, India has always demanded for a membership in the UN Security Council and U.S. is also insisting upon our signing the NPT. NPT. Under these circumstances, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the urgency of submitting this instrument of ratification immediately. I would also like to know whether the Goverment would interact with the member-countries of the Non-Aligned Movement and take a decision in this respect.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : The urgency primarily is because from 1997 itself the treaty will come into force.

Therefore, that is the process which is going on. We have waited for a couple of years and then we have ratified and deposited it. The ratification was done earlier in 1995, but we have deposited it now. There is no urgency that way. But urgency is there because the 'entry into force' clause is operational.

So far as NAM countries are concerned, we have always been in touch with them. So far as the weapons of mass destruction are concerned, India and all Non-Aligned countries have a similar point of view that all these weapons should be destroyed.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Completion of Irrigation Projects

*305. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to complete the ongoing major and medium irrigation projects and to institutionalise the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme;

(b) whether the Union Government have prepared concrete plans to develop the water resources for irrigation and flood control etc; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the nature of assistance proposed to be provided to the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The Union Government has been impressing upon State Governments to take a number of steps namely, attaching top most priority to projects which are in advanced stage of completion, ear-marking of outlays for important projects, monitoring of projects at State and Central level, providing more outlays for major and medium irrigation sector and adopting sub-project approach for large projects.

Irrigation and Flood Control are state subjects and projects are investigated, formulated and implemented by the State Governments. The Central Plan Assistance is released in the form of 'Block Grant' not tied to any sector of development or project. However, the Union Government has launched Accelerated Irrigation benefits Programme (AIBP) with a budget provison of Rs. 900 crores (revised to Rs. 500 crores) during the current financial year 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance on matching basis to the States for accelerating implementation of major and medium irrigation projects. The programme is being continued during 1997-98 with a proposed budget provision of Rs. 1300 crores. Union Government has also taken up Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for extending loan assistance to minor, medium and major irrigation projects through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

The Union Government has also taken a number of steps to deal with problems of flood namely, setting up of National Commission on Floods (1976-1980), establishing Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) for Ganga basin, setting up of Brahmaputra Board, Flood forecasting by Central Water Commission and preparation of a model flood plain zoning Bill. In addition, Central assistance for flood proofing and maintenance of flood protection works of Kosi and Gandak projects, and Central Loan Assistance to Assam are provided. GFCC has prepared comprehensive plan for flood control for subbasins of the Ganga basin. Brahmaputra Board is engaged in preparation of the Master Plan for flood control of the main stem of Brahmaputra, the Barrak system and the tributaries of the Brahmaputra.

Modernisation of Shipping

*306. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have chalked out a plan for expansion, modernisation and improvement of efficiency of shipping operations, if the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether ship building and repair services in various shipyards in the country are satisfactory, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to strengthen and modernise the Cochin Shipyard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The Government has taken various steps to simplify and libralise the ship acquisition procedures to facilitate acquisition of modern and efficient ships. As a result 8th plan target of reaching 7 Million Gross Registered has already been achieved.

(c) and (d) Indian shipyards have an installed shipbuilding capacity of 2.8 lakh (approx.) Dead-Weight Tonnes and the shiprepair capacity of 3850 drydock days per annum. Modernisation and upgradation of the Public sector shipyards is a continuous process which is taken up through the Plan Schemes. For Cochin Shipyard Limited a sum of Rs. 111.14 crores has been proposed for this purpose for the 9th Five Year Plan.